

MINUTES OF THE MAY 26, 2016 HARMONY RESIDENTS GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN THE ROTARY ROOM NOTL PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The meeting began at 7.05pm with approximately 60 people in attendance including 8 Board Directors and an invited speaker, Eric Nielsen, External Relations Manager, Parks Canada.

HRG President, Finn Madsen, opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda and introducing the keynote speaker.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Nielsen outlined the process for producing a new 10 year management plan for Niagara's 7 historic sites. He explained that because of the complexity of the reviewing process, the draft of the new plan, originally scheduled to be available in May is not expected until June sometime, and that the final submission to Parliament would not be ready until October, at the earliest.

The new plan will be different from the 2007 one in that the 7 sites would be treated as a single entity that "covered all kinds of heritage experiences". The plan's main objective would be to make Niagara's historic sites a premier Canadian heritage destination. At the moment only 4% of the 2 million visitors a year visit the principal historic site, Fort George.

Mr. Nielsen concluded his talk by introducing the issue of what to do with the historic site most interesting to the HRG membership, the Fort George Battlefield and the rest of the DND/PC Lakeshore Lands including the soon-to-be decommissioned Wastewater Treatment Plant. Most of this site is considered "program lands" because, while not historically significant, it has a unique natural heritage value. At a recent stakeholders' meeting to decide what future use of the land would be identified in the new management plan, providing access to Lake Ontario and forming a partnership with other organizations such as the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority were considered important goals towards any final decision. No specific use has so far been identified, but projects like a new military museum and the future use of the decommissioned WWTP are works in progress.

There will be a second round of PIM's before a draft version of the new plan goes through an intensive reviewing process and the final plan emerges in October.

HRG'S ANNUAL UPDATE AND TREASURER'S REPORT

F. Madsen gave HRG's Annual Update. He emphasized the on-going commitment to transforming the DND/PC Lakeshore Lands, which include the Rifle Range and the decommissioned WWTP and Niagara Shores Park,

into an eco-heritage park. He explained that the Board was now focused on working with the Town, the Region, the NPCA and Parks Canada to form a partnership for following up on HRG's

proposal. He pointed out that, at a recent meeting of the NPCA Board, the idea that HRG, the NPCA and PC might form a partnership as a way of developing the HRG proposal received a positive response. The NPCA is now considering what such a partnership would involve.

He also related the progress that had been made towards converting the decommissioned WWTP to natural wetlands. Stakeholder meetings are in progress and the consultants, Hatch, Mott MacDonald, at the next meeting in June will present for public consideration the pros and cons of various options for proceeding with the decommissioning and deciding on the future use to be made of the site.

Treasurer, D. Hennessey present the Treasurer's Report. Supporting details indicate that the income for the past year exceeded expenses by about 100 dollars.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RETIRED DIRECTORS AND ELECTION OF NEW ONES

Vice-President, P. Harvey, thanked C. James and S. Sparrow for past services as Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the HRG Board of Directors. He also thanked J. Turner for her services as a Director.

He asked for nominations from the floor for new Directors. None being forthcoming, he introduced new Directors P. Kavanagh, D. Dick and A. Waller for confirmation. A vote was called and they were elected unanimously.

The present Board of Directors was the introduced to the membership: F. Madsen, President; P. Harvey, Vice—President; R. Payne, Secretary; D. Hennessey, Treasurer; and D. Dick, P. Kananagh, T. Patterson, C. Simpson, A. Waller, Directors.

OTHER ITEMS AND UNDATES

1. The Hatch, Mott MacDonald consultants meeting will be held on June 8, 6 – 8pm at the Community Centre.
2. The DND/PC Lakeshore Lands are included in the area of NOTL being considered for designation as a World Heritage Site.

ADJOURNMENT

9.00pm Moved D. Dick, Seconded R. Payne that the meeting be adjourned. Carried unanimously